

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Revised Budget Resolution	2,564,237	2,466,678	1,875,401
⁶ S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$108,056 million in budget authority and \$28,901 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. The Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252) designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–252 (see footnote 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have been reduced for purposes of comparison. SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office. Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.			

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL SCOTT DIMOND

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Cpl Scott Dimond of Franklin, NH. On Monday, October 13, 2008, Corporal Dimond was tragically taken from us when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device and his patrol was engaged in small-arms attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan. My deepest sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Scott's family and loved ones who have suffered this grievous loss. At 39 nine years old, Scott will always be remembered as a dedicated citizen who consistently put others before himself.

Scott enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during his senior year in high school but was medically discharged after a serious football injury. Still determined to serve his fellow citizens, Scott began a career in law enforcement. He served 18 years with the Franklin Police Department, retiring in 2006 as a sergeant. Upon his retirement, Scott's unwavering determination to serve others remained. He enlisted in the New Hampshire National Guard while working toward a degree as a registered nurse, enabling Scott to assist others in a new way—the health care profession. To any observer, Scott's professional pursuits will forever echo selflessness, sacrifice, and patriotism, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

As a member of an embedded tactical training team, there is no doubt that Scott's law enforcement background and his willingness to help others successfully contributed to the mentoring and strengthening of the Afghan army and police force, accelerating the eventual return of American military personnel from the battlefield. Consistent with the rest of his life, Scott routinely put his country and his fellow soldiers before himself. Because of his devotion and sense of duty, the safety and liberty of countless Americans is more secure. Unquestionably, Scott is a shining example of the highest caliber of person that New Hampshire, and this country, can produce. We are honored to speak of his contributions, spirit, and dedication. In the words of Daniel Webster—"what a man does for others, not what they do for him, gives him immortality." May God bless Cpl Scott Dimond, his family, and all those who are currently serving in uniform.

PROTECTIVE FORESTS AND WILDLIFE IN SUMATRA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to call attention to the recent action of the Government of Indonesia to preserve the endangered rain forests an ecosystems of Sumatra.

On October 10, 2008, the Indonesian Government, in cooperation with the

World Wildlife Fund, WWF, announced an agreement between the 10 provincial governors of Sumatra to protect biodiversity on the world's sixth largest island. Although long overdue, this is an important first step towards conservation of a unique habitat at a critical time.

Sumatra is the only place on Earth where tigers, elephants, rhinos, and orangutans co-exist. It has also gained a reputation for having lost almost half of its natural forest cover since 1985. The rapid expansion of palm oil and pulpwood plantations, as well as rampant illegal logging, have been largely to blame. These activities have contributed to the precipitous decline in numbers of these endangered species, whose habitat has become a patchwork of disconnected small parcels of forest.

This action to protect the forests is important not only for Indonesia but for the rest of the world. Thirteen percent of Indonesia's remaining forests grow on peat soil, which emits large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere when trees are felled. Further destruction of these forests will contribute to global warming at a time when we should be doing everything possible to reduce greenhouse gases.

This agreement represents a significant change of attitude and policy, for which President Yudhoyono and his government deserve credit. Implementing the agreement will be difficult, requiring additional resources for alternative economic opportunities for people living in these areas, and for enforcement, and I urge the U.S. Agency for International Development and other donors to support it.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as Chairman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I want to take a moment to speak about the budget of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC.

The fiscal year 2009 State and Foreign Operations bill, reported by the Appropriations Committee on July 18, 2008, recommends \$254 million for the MCC. Since this is substantially less than the \$2 billion requested by the President, it was predictable that the Senate committee's action would cause concerns among the MCC and many of its supporters, as well as governments that seek MCC funding. Those concerns have been expressed and I want to address them briefly today. While differences are inevitable in the legislative process, it is important that such differences not be based on a misunderstanding or confusion about the facts.

During the past several months, I have heard that some of those who

have complained about the Senate committee's action have suggested that it was motivated by an antipathy towards the MCC and a desire to close it down or dramatically curtail its functions. That is incorrect.

To begin with, we have commended the MCC for what it has accomplished since its inception 4 years ago. Several compacts are beginning to show tangible results, including the implementation of agriculture, infrastructure and other projects. Ambassador John Danilovich, the MCC's CEO, has been a strong leader at a critical time, and I commend him as well as deputy CEO Rodney Bent. They have both done a fine job of representing the MCC, both here and abroad.

Earlier this year, when the subcommittee was dividing up funds allocated to State and Foreign Operations, we faced many difficult choices. Our fiscal year 2009 allocation was \$2 billion below the President's budget request, and the President underfunded or failed to fund many critical programs of interest to both Democrats and Republicans. For example, he cut funding for family planning/reproductive health by over \$100 million below the fiscal year 2008 level. He cut the U.S. contribution to the global fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria by \$350 million. He short-changed humanitarian relief programs, peacekeeping, democracy programs, environment and energy programs. There are many other examples.

We also considered the fact that Congress had appropriated \$7.5 billion for the MCC, and by July 18 only \$235 million had been disbursed of which a significant portion was for administrative expenses. While we made clear that we were not advocating faster disbursements, we do not support additional compacts until more of the funds we have already appropriated produce sustainable results.

Many compacts were slow getting off of the ground, in some cases because the MCC rightly insisted that governments make further refinements, or because the contracting process took longer than expected. These kinds of delays are predictable and do not reflect poorly on the MCC. Unfortunately, I have heard that some MCC personnel in country are being urged to disburse funds more quickly. As we have said before, this is not our intent, particularly if it risks short-cutting procurement guidelines or other safeguards, or otherwise negatively affects the quality of implementation of compacts.

I do not know what the optimal rate of disbursement is for the MCC. It may be disbursing funds at the right rate.